

Calls on Postmaster General to extend moratorium

*May 3, 2012*

*Stockton, CA* – Today, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) sent a letter to Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe, calling on him to extend the moratorium on the closure of postal processing facilities past May 15. The end of the moratorium could result in the closure of the Arch Road processing facility in Stockton, CA. The closure of this facility could result in the loss of an estimated 187 jobs.

“Our community has been hard-hit by the economic downturn. A loss of the facility on Arch Road would be a speed bump on the road to economic recovery, harming both local businesses and consumers alike that depend on reliable service,” said Rep. McNerney.

In the letter, Congressman McNerney calls on Postmaster General Donahoe to keep the Arch Road facility open while the postal service continues working on long-term solutions. There are a number of legislative proposals under consideration in Congress that could have a bearing on Postal Service operations.

“Tough choices need to be made, but shutting down the Arch Road facility would be detrimental to our region’s small businesses. During these tough economic times we need to be looking for ways to spur economic growth, not eliminating jobs from our community and placing undue burdens on business owners,” said Rep. McNerney.

The full text of the letter is below:

May 3, 2012

U.S. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260-0010  
Dear Postmaster General Donahoe, I am writing to you in anticipation of the expiration of the moratorium on the closure of postal processing and distribution centers (P&DCs) on May 15.

While I am pleased that this moratorium was put into place, I believe that it should be further extended while the U.S. Postal Service works to resolve its financial challenges. I want to reemphasize my view that the Arch Road processing facility in Stockton, CA should not be shuttered.

Across the country, businesses are struggling to thrive in today's economy without the added stress of losing a local P&DC. I am especially concerned that moving operations from Arch Road to West Sacramento will lead to an increase in processing and delivery times for businesses and homeowners in the greater Stockton area. This change will further hurt a community that has already been severely harmed by the economic downturn.

I understand that the Postal Service faces challenging circumstances and that you must make difficult decisions. I am committed to working with you on common sense postal reforms, but I believe that USPS, in partnership with Congress, can achieve cost savings without the closure of the Arch Road facility. Congress is currently debating postal reform legislation, and USPS should do everything possible to avoid facility closures and employee layoffs while this process continues. At the least, you should extend the moratorium while further options are discussed. For the sake of the employees who would be uprooted, the businesses and families who depend upon the services the Arch Road facility provides, and the surrounding community as a whole, I urge you to refrain from closing the Arch Road processing facility.

I look forward to continuing to work with you towards our mutual goal of helping USPS serve our nation. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Cc: Consumer Affairs Manager, Sacramento District